

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

DPW-01 IO-13 AID-20 RSR-01 /114 W

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P 111802Z JUL 73

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0099

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: VS, PINT

SUBJECT: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 16TH PLENARY, JULY 11, 1973

1. SUMMARY. ACRIMONIOUS PRESENTATIONS AND A COMPLETE LACK OF SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS CHARACTERIZED THE PLENARY. VIEN (GVN) PROPOSED IMMEDIATE SECRET TALKS, WHICH HIEU (PRG) PROMPTLY REJECTED. EACH SIDE TRIED TO PORTRAY THE OTHER AS A DELIBERATE, PERSISTENT VIOLATOR OF THE COMMUNIQUE. IN POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCES THE PRG ATTEMPTED TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST CHARGES THAT IT SEEKS TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS. IT WAS AGREED TO RECONVENE JULY 18  
END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY PRIMIN VIEN CONTRASTED PRG PROPAGANDA, "SHOUTING FROM THE ROOF TOPS ABOUT 'POLITICAL PRISONERS'," WITH PRG ACTIONS: CONTINUATION OF THE WAR OF LIBERATION", ASSASSINATION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS, AND SABOTAGE OF TPJMC AND ICCS ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ARREST OF TWO CANDEL OFFICERS. HE DEFENDED THE GVN JUNE 28 PLAN AGAINST THE PRG'S "ABSURD UNILATERAL PRECONDITIONS AND FAMILIAR CALUMNIES." WHEN, LAST WEEK, THE GVN HAD ACCEPTED THE PRG DEMAND FOR DISCUSSION OF "GENERAL PRINCIPLES," THE PRG HAD TURNED AROUND AND EVEN REJECTED

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THAT.

3. TO CREATE A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE AT THE TALKS VIEN PROPOSED THAT BOTH SIDES AVOID POLEMICS, PRECONDITIONS, AND "SUBJECTIVE" INTERPRETATIONS OF THE ORIGIN AND NATURE OF THE CONFLICT. IN CLOSING VIEN PROPOSED THAT THREE OR FOUR REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH SIDE MEET TOGETHER AT 1500 JULY 11 TO DISCUSS MAJOR ISSUES IN SECRET.

4. HIEU BEGAN WITH A CATALOGUE OF ALLEGED GVN VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THESE ALLEGATIONS INCLUDED THE CHARGE THAT VNAF AIRCRAFT WITH RED CROSS MARKINGS HAD DROPPED TOXIC CHEMICALS IN "GIA LAI" PROVINCE ON JUNE 16. BESIDES ALLEGING THAT THE GVN HAD ARRESTED "TENS OF THOUSANDS" SINCE JUNE 13 AND WAS HOLDING "200,000" IN PRISON, HIEU PLACED PARTIAL BLAME ON THE U.S. FOR THE SITUATION, CLAIMING THAT IN FY 1974 THE U.S. WAS PROVIDING \$15 MILLION AID TO GVN PENETENTIARIES.

5. SUCCESSIVE GVN TIMETABLES FOR POLITICAL EVOLUTION, HIEU CONTINUED, WERE A MERE SCREEN TO AVOID FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS AND TO PROLONG THE TALKS. HIEU DEMANDED THAT THE GVN ACCEPT THE PRG JUNE 28 PROGRAM AND THAT THE GVN ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING: (A) GUARANTEE RELEASE OF CAPTURED AND DETAINED PERSONNEL BY JULY 28, (B) CEASE ALL REPRESSION AND POLICE ACTIONS, AND (C) ALLOW NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETIES TO VISIT PLACES OF DETENTION.

6. IN REMARKS TO THE PRESS AFTER THE SESSION HIEU REJECTED THE GVN PROPOSAL FOR SECRET TALKS AS A "MANEUVER", WHILE VIEN LAMENTED THE LACK OF PROGRESS AT THE TALKS. VIEN ALSO WAS CRITICAL OF RECENT PRG "THIRD FORCE" CONVERSATIONS IN PARIS, HOLDING THAT "THIRD FORCE" REPRESENTATIVES WERE TO BE FOUND NOT ONLY IN FRANCE BUT IN "THE U.S., JAPAN, AND ELSEWHERE."

7. POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCES WERE POORLY ATTENDED, FOR THE SECOND SUCCESSIVE WEEK. SAU (PRG) ATTACKED PRES. THIEU'S ARTICLE IN THE NEW DAN CHU NEWSPAPER. HE SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THIEU'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE PRG FEARING ELECTIONS WAS "THE CRUEST KIND OF LIE." THE PRG HAD ALWAYS DEMANDED ELECTIONS AND CONSISTENTLY FOUGHT FOR SUITABLE CONDITIONS WHICH WOULD MAKE ELECTIONS POSSIBLE. SAU PRAISED THE PRG MEETING WITH THE "THIRD FORCE" ORGANIZATION IN PARIS, THE "COMMITTEE FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS IN SVN." IN CLOSING, SAU MENTIONED THE RECENT VISIT OF VIDAL (HUMANITE) TO PRG-HELD QUANG

TRI. SAUD SAID THAT THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES FROM THAT PROVINCE WERE HELD IN GVN "CONCENTRATION CAMPS" AT DA NANG, BUT MANY HAD ESCAPED AND DEFIED THE GVN BAN AGAINST RETURNING TO THEIR HOME VILLAGES. THIS HAD ALSO BEEN THE CASE IN DINH TUONG, WHERE 4500 HAD ESCAPED AND RETURNED HOME, SAU ALLEGED.

8. DAN (GVN) HELD A BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE ALLEGED THAT THE PRG WAS WITH ITS BACK TO THE WALL, HENCE HAD SHOWN "ILL WILL" AT THE TALKS AND WAS FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT IMPASSE.

9. THE TWO SIDES RECONVENE JULY 18.  
WILLIAMS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREATY VIOLATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** thigpegh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973JECPA19051  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P770189-0888  
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**Line Count:** 129  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** thigpegh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <18-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 16TH PLENARY, JULY 11, 1973  
**TAGS:** PINT, MOPS, VS, PRG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005